of intent are at various stages of implementation. No definite time schedule for completion of these projects can be indicated.

Modernisation of Bidhanbag Unit of BALCO

2955. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased-to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to modernise the Bidhanbag' unit of BALCO at Jaykaynagar; and

if so, the details thereof and if not. t'he reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR); (a) and (b) The for-sick unit of Aluminium Corporation of India Ltd. (ALUCOIN) ai Jaykaynagar in West Bengal in private sector was nationalised through an Act of Parliament and d in Bharat Aluminium jCom-pany Ltd. (BALCO) on 2nd June, 1984. After nationalisation this unit was renamed as Bidhanbag Unit of BALCO. CO has been operating ion facilities producing Rolled Extrusions, Foils and Con- As. The annual production ty of the above products was d at 6400 tonnes. However, due to obsolescence of the plant and annual production has 023 tonnes during 1985-86, 2475 during 1986-87 and 1607 tonnes : For the year 1988-80, get of 2000 tonnes only has been fixed. BALCO has oronosals to modernise the exiting fabrication facilities at Bidhanbag Unil in Stases, view its fii resources, etc. in a phase has bean mad initiating action on modernisation or the conductor plant. This is proposed to be followed bv modernisation of other units like extrusion and foil plants to produce value added items. 998 RiS—3.

Selection of Pressmen/Newsmen to accompany Prime Minister on Foreign Tours

2956. f3HRI| SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be oleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for selection of pressmen/newsmen for accompanying the Prime Minister on foreign tours;

(b) whether all the regional languages are given representation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN TARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to c) The main criterian is to secure the best possible coverage for the visit. Weightage is given to pev|sons having adequate experience in. covering international affairs, PM's engagements, etc. To xtent possible renresentation is "iven to regional language news papers.

Pvoblems of Bidhanbag Unit of BALCo

2957. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the (Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state-.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bidhanbag unit of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) at Jaykaynagar is plagued with Major problems like lack of orders, investment and raw mate-rials;

Co) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 'the steps taken by Government to ease the problems facing the company?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) The formerly